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COUNTRY

Czechoslovakia

REPORT NO.

229

TOPIC

SNB Border Guard Battalion in Karlovy Vary

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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PAGES

2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

25X

REMARKS

RETURN TO CIA

100-1117

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25X1B

25X1X1. SNB Border Guard Bn [redacted] was located in Karlovy Vary (M 51/P 69) and was subordinate to SNB Unit 9600, which was stationed in Prague XIII-Vrsovice and commanded by Major Duda, (fmu), who, in March 1950, had succeeded Colonel Kovar, (fmu), who had been arrested on charges of espionage. (1)

2. Headquarters and headquarters units of the battalion were located in Karlovy Vary; one company was in As (M 51/P 18) and another company in Jachymov (M 51/K 60).

25X1B The company in As had [redacted] (2)

3. The battalion was commanded by Senior Lieutenant Vlcek, (fmu), and was organized into the headquarters, including a raiding squad and radio station, and into three companies.

4. The company in As was commanded by Lieutenant Hanis, (fmu). It numbered two officers and about 300 NCOs and was organized into the company headquarters with radio station, one platoon in Mokriny (Nassengrub) (M 51/P 18), one in Sonbach, one in the forester's house of Podlesi, one in Rossbach (M 51/P 19) and one in Podhradie.

5. The company in As was equipped with an undetermined number of Czech model 48 submachine guns, 12 Czech light machine guns, one model Bronowik armored scout car, one bus, two passenger cars, two trucks, three Java motorcycles and two search-lights.

6. In the spring of 1950 mine-laying was started along the border. This work was suspended for some time and resumed in early July 1950. The necessary surveying work was done by SNB personnel. (3)

7. Since 1 April 1950 the SNB units have been reinforced by reliable picked soldiers from army units, with the result that by September 1950 the SNB border guard units were made up of more former army personnel than SNB personnel. (4)

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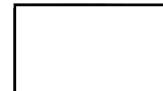
Comments.

25X1X(1) (2) Companies in Lazne Kynzvart, Cheb, As, Kraslice, Nejdek and Prisenice belong to SNB Border Guard Bn [redacted] in Karlovy Vary. See [redacted] The SNB units in Jachymov belong to the SNB special unit Jerab rather than to the battalion

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mentioned above.

(3) This is the first report that mines were planted along the western border of Czechoslovakia. Previous rumors to this effect have not been verified. It is probable that mines were laid in the As area, since a previous report on the storing of mines in Novazdar and Nedosa in November 1949 quoted an engineer officer as saying that these mines were to be planted in the border area. See [redacted]

(4) It has been known for a long time that SSB units were reinforced by army personnel. It is believed, however, that the army personnel were only detached to the SSB for temporary assignment to border duty.

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